by them so far as appointments made directly by them were concerned. But heads of departments and subordinate officers were not faithful to this policy in the exercise of the powers of appointment which they themselves possessed. It was not rare to hear a head of a department exhorting a person about the traditional occupations of his caste etc., when he went to him in search of an appointment. Such exhortations were nothing but insincere. An appointment in the public service was a coveted possession not alone because it supplied a means of livelihood, but also because it had a regenerating influence upon the person concerned from whom it spread on to the section of the public to which he belonged. It imparted to the individual and to his community a sense of self-respect. Hence it was that the public service was so much prized by the backward communities. In the interests of these communities therefore and ultimately of the country, the members thereof should be freely entertained in the Government service. The Education Department deserved special reference in this connection. The teacher had more influence on society for good than the holders of any other appointment. Hence as many persons as possible who belonged to the depressed classes should be entertained as teachers in the Education Department.

Such representations often met with the answer that appointments made on the principle of communal representation would tell upon the efficient working of the department concerned. This was an idle plea. Man to man there was not such a very wide gulf parting a member of the depressed classes from another belonging to the so-called higher classes. Efficiency rested more on environment than on heredity.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nilakantan, I shall discuss with the Director of Public Instruction the possibility of larger employment of the unrepresented classes in the Education Department.

167. Communal grievances and the means of remedying them.

MR. KRISHNAN KRISHNA PANICKER (*Member, Nominated*) said that one of the most effective means of securing the up-lift of the depressed and backward classes was the encouragement of education among them. In order to induce them to freely take to education Government had instituted a system of fee-concessions. But the communities concerned were not deriving all the benefit that they should from these fee-concessions. The reason was the absence of representatives of these communities on the committees for the grant of fee-concessions. These communities should be allowed to have their representatives on the fee-concession committees.

All the schools in the State should be thrown open to all communities. There were 13 schools at present to which non-caste Hindus had no admission. At Trivandrum itself, there was, inside the Fort, a girls' school which was not open to the depressed classes. This was very regretable.

Due encouragement should be granted to the depressed classes in the public service. There were several qualified young men belonging

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to these communities who were desperately struggling for appointments in the Government service. Heads of Departments should be instructed to consider their applications favourably and to give them suitable appointments. Particular care should be taken to see that the few qualified women among the depressed classes were given due encouragement.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishna Panikkar, every attempt is being made to provide equality of opportunity for all communities; and the Government have, for sometime past, not flagged in their efforts to give encouragement to the unrepresented and backward communities.

In the matter of admission of pupils of all communities into all Sirkar schools, this is being steadily worked up to. There are only 12 such schools at present, and even these are being diminished as quickly as possible. Of course, it takes time to find suitable sites for new buildings in cases where the present buildings are unsuitable for the admission of all sections of the public, on account of their location.

168. Needs of the Ezhavas.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that Ezhavas should be entertained more freely in the public service. For some time at least they should also be exempted from the operation of the rule regarding age-bar.

So far as the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was concerned, at least 10 Ezhava members should be nominated every year to that body.

In the Legislative Council, Ezhavas would never be able to get seats by means of elections under the present rules. The electoral rules should therefore be amended and universal suffrage should be introduced instead of a franchise based on property qualification. If this was not feasible all at once, special constituencies should be formed for the Ezhavas, one for North, another for Central, and a third for South Travancore.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan, I have no doubt Ezhavas would like to see more of the community in public service; and I should like to see more of them myself. They are a very industrious and hard-working community. But we have to respect the requirements of other communities as well; and what is more, it is not possible to hurry in a matter of this sort. We cannot move more rapidly than at present.

You want that the age limit of 25 should be withdrawn. I should oppose that very strongly. It is a great shame that any man of 25 should not be earning his own living; and it annoys me very much to hear men of 27 and 28 coming and telling me that they are still depending upon their father, or cousin or sister, spending the time when they are getting into the middle of their lives without having begun to earn their own living. In fact I should even consider whether the age limit of 25 is not too high.

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